



FEMA

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Frequently Asked Questions

Q1: How is your training unique?

A1: The CDP provides unique, hands-on training to more than 45,000 emergency responders a year from local, state, territorial, and tribal agencies. It's training that most responders cannot get at their home agencies. The CDP is the only training facility in the country where civilian responders train in a toxic-agent environment. The center is also home to the Noble Training Facility, the only hospital training facility dedicated solely to preparing healthcare, public health and environmental health professionals for mass-casualty events related to terrorism or natural disasters.

Q2: What chemicals agents and biological materials does the CDP use in training?

A2: At the Chemical, Ordnance, Biological, and Radiological Training Facility (COBRATF), emergency response professionals train using nerve agents GB (Sarin) and VX, as well as non-pathogenic strains of anthrax, ricin and radiological materials.

Q3: Who trains at the CDP?

A3: Every emergency response discipline can and does train at the CDP: Emergency management, emergency medical services, fire service, governmental administrative, hazardous materials, healthcare, law enforcement, public health, public safety communications and public works.

Responders from all 50 states and territories, as well as responders from several other countries including Israel, Germany and South Africa have trained at the center among others.

Q4: Why would responders want to train at the CDP?

A4: The CDP is operated by FEMA and is the only federally-chartered training facility in the nation where responders can train with toxic chemical agents and live biological materials. The CDP develops and delivers advanced training for emergency response providers, emergency managers, and other government officials from state, local tribal, and territorial governments. The CDP offers more than 40 training courses focusing on incident management, mass-casualty response and emergency response to a catastrophic natural disaster or terrorist act. Training at the CDP campus is federally funded at no cost to state, local tribal, and territorial emergency response professionals or their agency.

Responders participating in CDP training gain critical skills and confidence to respond effectively to local incidents. The training also emphasizes the public health role in an emergency response and highlights areas where responders would collaborate with public health.

In addition, the CDP offers the exclusive opportunity to combine state, local tribal, and territorial students with other departments and agencies to train jointly.

Q5: What is the format for CDP courses?

A5: CDP courses range in length from eight hours to five days. The one-day classes are usually combined with other classes so that the students are on campus for three to five days.

CDP courses are designed for the adult learner and contain student-centered models. The classes are conducted in a “crawl, walk, run” format. In the “crawl phase,” the students learn through classroom lecture instruction. During the “walk phase,” they begin to explore the hands-on applications of the tasks. Finally, during the “run phase,” the students are wearing the appropriate equipment and are charged with carrying out the task on their own.

Q6: How do students sign up and what’s the selection process to determine if they get in?

A6: The CDP registers roughly 9,500 state, local tribal, and territorial emergency responders annually to attend one of more than 40 different training programs. The regional coordinators communicate daily with students, local agencies, and state, tribal and territorial training points of contacts in support of the registration process.

Applicants can now register for CDP classes online in three easy steps from the CDP [webpage](#): First, view the CDP Training Calendar on the CDP webpage. Second, select the training program you’d like to attend. And, third, click the “Registration” button on the CDP webpage.

Q7: What kind of training does the CDP provide?

A7: Please see the attached course list and descriptions.

Q8: How is CDP training conducted? Do all of the students have to travel to Anniston, Ala.?

A8: The CDP delivers training through three delivery methods:

Resident training: Students attend training on the Anniston, Ala., CDP campus. Most of these classes range from three to five days. Students reside in dorm rooms on the campus during training.

Nonresident training: A team of CDP instructors travel to the students’ location and conduct the training in the students’ home jurisdiction.

Indirect training: This is a train-the-trainer format. Responders who have attended CDP train-the-trainer courses can then go back and teach CDP awareness-level courses to their agencies or departments. The CDP provides all of the course materials for the classes.

Q9: What are the advantages of training at the CDP?

A9:

Training at the CDP campus is federally-funded at no cost to state, local tribal, and territorial emergency response professionals or their agency. The Department of Homeland Security funds the students’ travel, lodging and meals, as well.

The CDP offers the exclusive opportunity to combine state, local tribal, and territorial students with other departments and agencies to train jointly.

Responders earn Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for CDP courses. Many responders are required by their departments to earn a designated amount of CEUs each year.

Q10: Why was the CDP opened?

A10: After the 1995 Aum Shinriky Sarin attack on the Tokyo subway system, civilian jurisdictions in the United States approached the U.S. Army for chemical response training. DoD authorized that training and the first group from New York Port Authority graduated alongside military personnel. Fort McClellan, the home of the U.S. Army’s Chemical School, was placed on the Base Realignment

and Closure list in 1995 and closed in 1999. Based on the civilian need for this training, the U.S. Army Chemical School and several other Fort McClellan facilities were transferred from the Army to the Department of Justice during the post closure process. The CDP opened using those facilities in 1998.

Q11: How many people work at the CDP?

A11: The CDP has approximately 100 federal employees and approximately 700 contract employees.

Q12: What are the CDP instructors' credentials?

A12: All CDP instructors have a minimum of 10 years' experience in the area in which they instruct and have served a key role in response to at least one major incident, accident or disaster.